

1 **50743/DJB/C1000**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. An apparatus, comprising:
 a shaft including a socket opening in at least one
end of the shaft; and
 a handle connected to the shaft by a unidirectional
bearing.

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 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shaft has two
ends and includes a second socket opening in the other end of
the shaft.

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 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the unidirectional
bearing is a cam clutch unidirectional bearing.

 4. A drum key for rotating a tension rod having a
terminal end, comprising:

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 a shaft including a socket opening in at least one
end of the shaft; and

 a handle connected to the shaft by a unidirectional
bearing;

 wherein the socket opening can engage the terminal
25 end of the tension rod.

 5. The drum key of claim 4, wherein the shaft has two
ends and includes a second socket opening in the other end of
the shaft that can engage the terminal end of the tension rod.

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 6. The drum key of claim 4, wherein the unidirectional
bearing is a cam clutch unidirectional bearing.

 7. A method of tuning a drum, comprising rotating a
35 tension rod using a drum key that includes a shaft with a

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socket opening in one end and a handle connected to the shaft
by a unidirectional bearing.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the rotation of the
tension rod comprises:

inserting a portion of the tension rod inside the
socket opening of the drum key; and

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rotating the handle of the drum key in a first
direction.

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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising rotating
the handle of the drum key in a second direction without
rotating the tension rod.

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10. The method of claim 8, wherein the rotation of the
tension rod further comprises:

holding the handle of drum key stationary; and
simultaneously rotating the shaft of the drum key.

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